(b) if so, the details of the project, indicating the works to be undertaken and implemented thereunder and the cost of the project; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government of India in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has no information about any such project.

Monthly Release Policy for Sugar Industry

4303. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to change the existing monthly release policy for the sugar industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Sugar Mills of Maharashtra have registered the need for change in the existing policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(f) the measures adopted to liquidate surplus stocks of sugar lying in the mills of Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to amend the existing monthly release policy.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has received a memorandum from Maharashtra Rajya Sahakaari Sakhar Karkhana Sangh on problems of Maharashtra's Cooperative Sugar Mills. The said memorandum does not contain any suggestion on the release policy of the Government.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) In order to reduce the stocks of sugar lying with the sugar mills, Government has taken the following measures :

(i) Quantitative ceiling on export of sugar has been removed.

(ii) The sugar meat for export has been exempted from the levy obligation.

(iii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) @5% value of FOB price of sugar has been allowed.

(iv) Requirement of Registration-cum-Allocation certificate from APEDA has been dispensed *w.e.f.* 1-4-2001.

(v) The quantity of sugar exported is treated as advance free sale release to be adjusted after a period of 12 months from the date of release.

(vi) The advance release of freesale sugar are being given to needy sugar mills.

(vii) The sugar factories have been provided temporary relief in lieu of their un-lifted levy sugar quotas by way of permitting them to sell equivalent quantity in the open market.

Fruits and vegetables processing industries in Orissa

4304. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences granted during the last three years to set up fruits and vegetables processing industries in the tribal areas of Orissa; and

(b) the number and details of such food processing units as have been set up in those tribal districts, both in the organised and the unorganised sectors, in those years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) During the last three years, two licences have been granted under the Fruit Products Order—1955 for setting up fruits and vegetables processing industries in the districts of Keonjhar and Gajapati.

(b) Details of units in unorganised sector are not maintained in this Department. Units in the organised sector for which licences have been granted are :—

Name and Location	Year of setting up	Item of manufacture
M/s. Bilati Orissa Ltd., Badaposhi, Gopalpur, Keonjhar	1998	Fruit juices/pulps/concentrates, tomato products including paste
M/s. Flash, Vill.-Ranipeta, Parlakhemundi, Distt. Gajapati	1999	Pickles, preserves, tomato ketchup